

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03898 191950Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 NIC-01 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9015

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 3898

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, NZ

SUBJECT: OPINON POLL SHOWS LABOUR AND NATIONAL EVENLY MATCHED

REF WELLINGTON 3334

1. RESULTS OF NATIONWIDE POLL TAKEN NOV 9-16
AND RELEASED DEC 17, SHOW 44 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR
BOTH LABOUR AND NATIONAL PARTIES. SIX PERCENT DROP
IN SUPPORT FOR LABOUR SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER POLL
ATTRIBUTED TO ENDING OF HONEYMOON PERIOD GRANTED
GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER KIRK'S DEATH AND
TO CONCERN OVER COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

2. IN POPULARITY CONTEST, PRIME MINISTER ROWLING
RANKED AS MOST IMPRESSIVE LABOUR POLITICIAN BY
36 PERCENT OF SAMPLE (37 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER).
OPPOSITION LEADER ROB MULDOON CONSIDERED MOST IMPRESSIVE
NON-LABOUR POLITICO BY 35 PERCENT (30 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER).
INCREASE IN MULDOON'S SUPPORT IS UNDOBTEDLY DIRECT
RESULT OF TONING DOWN OF HIS STYLE. SURPRISINGLY,
SOCIAL CREDIT LEADER BRUCE BEETHAM RANKED THIRD
(FOLLOWING MULDOON AND SIR JOHN MARSHALL) AS MOST
IMPRESSIVE NON-LABOUR POLITICIAN WITH SUPPORT FROM EIGHT PERCENT
OF SAMPLE.

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 03898 191950Z

3. INFLATION AND THE ECONOMY CONTINUE TO BE THE MAJOR

VOTER CONCERNS WITH 56 PERCENT OF SAMPLE RANKING THEM
AS MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FACING COUNTRY. THIS TOTAL
IS UP SLIGHTLY FROM BOTH SEPTEMBER (55 PERCENT) AND
MAY (53 PERCENT) POLLS.
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